

market, Enron was at the center of the lobbying effort that crafted the bill.

Once the legislation was passed, Enron took full advantage of the loopholes it helped to create to manipulate and game the Western energy market. I would not argue that the system was perfect, but I would assert that Enron had a huge hand in creating such a flawed system, which it used to its benefit.

Enron, and other energy companies, created a business environment in which the bottom line mattered more than the public good.

As I have stated on this floor before, energy traders were completely unconcerned with customers having electricity as long as it meant that they got an extra bonus that day.

And the fault does not lie solely with Enron. Other companies were also involved with gaming the Western energy markets, including, but not limited to: Dynegy, Reliant, Williams, El Paso, Duke, BP Energy, Portland General, AES, Mirant, CMS Energy, American Electric Power Company, and Semptra Energy Trading.

The recently-released Enron tapes demonstrate the callousness of these companies:

One trader complained: "They're [expletive] taking all the money back from you guys? All the money you guys stole from those poor grandmothers in California?"

A second responded: "Yeah, grandma Millie, man."

The first responded: "Yeah, now she wants her [expletive] money back for all the power you've charged right up, [expletive phrase], for [expletive] \$250 a megawatt hour."

The good news is that the figures responsible for running Enron are beginning to be brought to justice. For instance, Ken Lay, along with former Enron CEO Jeffrey K. Skilling and former Enron Chief Accounting Officer Richard Causey, were indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice on charges of conspiracy, securities fraud, wire fraud, bank fraud and making false statements.

The indictment alleges that at various times between at least 1999 and 2001, Lay, Skilling, Causey and other Enron executives engaged in a wide-ranging scheme to deceive the investing public, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and others about the true performance of Enron's businesses.

The alleged scheme was designed to make it appear that: Enron was growing at a healthy and predictable rate, consistent with analysts' published expectations; Enron did not have significant write-offs or debt and was worthy of investment-grade credit rating; and, Enron was comprised of a number of successful business units, and that the company had an appropriate cash flow.

These actions had the effect of inflating artificially Enron's stock price, which increased from approximately \$30 per share in early 1998 to over \$80

per share in January 2001, and artificially stemming the decline of the stock during the first three quarters of 2001.

The indictment also alleges that Lay had a significant profit motive for participating in the scheme.

As stated in the indictment, Lay received approximately \$300 million from the sale of Enron stock options and restricted stock between 1998 and 2001, netting over \$217 million in profit, and was paid more than \$19 million in salary and bonuses.

Lay received a salary of over \$1 million, a bonus of \$7 million and \$3.6 million in long term incentive payments during 2001 alone.

Additionally, Lay sold 918,104 shares of Enron stock during the period of August 21 through Oct. 26, 2001, to repay advances totaling \$26,025,000 he had received from a line of credit extended to Lay by Enron.

At that same time, California was overcharged by at least \$9 billion. Now we at least know where some of that money went.

Yet even if Enron is forced to pay back the almost \$2 billion it overcharged California, bankruptcy will protect the company from paying back much more than 20 cents on the dollar.

It is my hope that as the evidence mounts against Ken Lay that the truth about his, and Enron's, role in the Western energy crisis will leave no doubt in anyone's mind that the crisis was manufactured by unethical, greedy corporations.

California has suffered enough as a result of the crisis—it does not need to suffer further from Ken Lay's mistruths.

Mr. President, thank you for letting me set the record straight.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of both the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services and the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce, WHCLIST, as well as to applaud a booklet, "Libraries, Citizens & Advocacy: The Lasting Effects of Two White House Conferences on Library and Information Services," published by WHCLIST in honor of this occasion.

As a result of the WHCLIST conferences and efforts—which have brought together hundreds of thousands of citizen representatives and library professionals—many Americans have discovered their community libraries for the first time, hundreds of Friends of the Library groups have formed, and a cadre of committed library supporters has emerged. The conferences renewed our Nation's emphasis on libraries and have helped spur my efforts to improve libraries.

The "Libraries, Citizens & Advocacy" report, which assesses the outcomes of the 1979 and 1991 White House Conferences on Library and Information Services, concludes that the WHCLIST has effectively focused the attention of the profession, trustees and advocates, and elected local, State, and national officials on the conferences' resolutions and recommendations. In the past quarter of a century, many of these resolutions and recommendations have been realized.

For example, resolutions from the 1979 conference included urging libraries to play a greater role in literacy development; provide improved access for minority groups, individuals with disabilities, and other underserved populations; and serve as a community center that offers recreation, social interaction, and an independent learning center. Delegates to the 1991 conference voted the Omnibus Children and Youth Initiative as the recommendation of greatest priority, including recommendations for school libraries and children's services in public libraries, intergenerational programming, and family literacy partnerships between library and Head Start personnel.

We have made significant progress toward improving the quality of school libraries. Notably, the 1996 passage of the Library Services and Technology Act made school libraries eligible to receive Federal funds for training, networks, and statewide consortium activities, and the Improving Literacy through School Libraries program, which I authored and was included as part of the No Child Left Behind Act, restored categorical funding for school libraries.

I have been proud to lead the way on these pieces of legislation, which ensure access to library and information services for library patrons of all ages, support the training and recruitment of librarians, and help provide the resources libraries need to improve literacy skills and academic achievement. I am honored to continue in the spirit of Senator Claiborne Pell's strong leadership on library issues.

I also wish to acknowledge the immense contributions and passionate advocacy of two other leaders from my home State: Rose Ellen A. Reynolds, current WHCLIST chair, and Joan Ress Reeves, delegate to the 1979 and 1991 conferences and former WHCLIST chair.

Let us recognize the White House Conference on Library and Information Taskforce on this 25th anniversary and celebrate the role it has played in improving our communities' libraries and our Nation's literacy.

DO THE WRITE THING 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Do the Write Thing Challenge, sponsored by the National Campaign to Stop Violence, is a national writing contest in which students express their concerns

about subjects such as domestic violence, easy access to guns, and gang activity.

Do the Write Thing currently operates in 14 cities, including Detroit, MI. Over the past 9 years, more than 285,000 students from middle schools from around the country have participated in this contest. During this past school year, over 85,000 middle school students participated in youth violence discussions and roundtables sponsored by the Do the Write Thing Challenge. Some 28,000 students chose to submit contributions to their local Do the Write Thing Challenge committee.

Over 2,500 school finalists were honored at local recognition ceremonies and had their writings published and distributed locally. Next week, two national finalists from each participating jurisdiction will be honored at a national recognition ceremony in Washington, DC. Also during next week's National Recognition Week, the finalists will present their views on youth violence to such national leaders as the Secretary of Education, the Attorney General, the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and Members of the House and Senate. In addition, their writings will be published and placed in the Library of Congress.

The works, ranging from poems to essays to stories, all describe the impact of violence in the lives of children. I am pleased that the National Campaign to Stop Violence will honor two students from Michigan, Michael Williams and Starlyn Robinson, for their poems on youth violence. I commend these two young people for their hard work and I know my colleagues join me in celebrating the efforts of middle school students from around the country.

I ask unanimous consent that Michael and Starlyn's poems be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STARLYN ROBINSON, BATES ACADEMY,
GRADE 8

SHADINA'S PRICE

A, loving girl,
Shadina Moss
A traffic incident
And her life was lost.
A piece of paper,
An invitation,
For a seemingly fun
Celebration.
The party was Friday
Shadina had a week to prepare,
But she started that second
Choosing what to wear.
Invitations were infrequent,
The people carefully selected.
Lots were left out
Feeling painfully neglected.
Not one of her friends
Was cool enough to get invited.
That made Shadina feel special,
And even more delighted.
Her friend reminded her
She'd need permission to go.
Sick of her bragging,
She hoped Mrs. Moss said, No.

The party was late,
After midnight
So of course her mother refused
Causing a fight.
Shadina was defiant,
Decided to rebel
Unaware of the fact
The party wouldn't end well.
Not owning a car
Shadina was stuck,
A boy offered her a ride
She thought it was good luck.
She knew the boy
Jason, from school.
He was nice, and invited
So evidently he was cool.
They talked a lot,
For a good long while.
She knew everything about him.
Even the length of his smile.
She knew his favorite color,
And that he liked to use slang.
But what she didn't know
Was that he was in a gang.
They arrived at the party
And started to have fun.
They laughed and said hi
To almost everyone.
Except for that boy
With bad intentions.
An enemy of the gang, Jason
Supposedly forgot to mention.
He wasn't invited,
And shouldn't have been there,
But he had a gun and some bullets
And didn't seem to care.
He locked and loaded,
Aimed straight for Jason's head
But Shadina was the one
That wound up dead.
With a BANG and a gasp,
Shadina took her last breath
And all those surrounding
Witnessed her death.
This story has a few morals,
Be nice to everyone;
If the boy was invited
He might not have brought a gun.
Had Jason not been in a gang
Shadina would still be alive,
But the deed is done
And she can never be revived.
Why do we need guns?
Do we have to kill each other?
My grandfather was shot
By my step-grandmother.
I'll miss the grandfather
I never got to meet.
I wish my step-grandma
Wasn't packing heat.
But like Shadina
He's gone to a better place,
Leaving this world
Without a trace.
Why would we make gun,
Then wonder about the death rate?
These are things we made
We decided to create.
When you sense hostility
On a person's face
Leave them alone,
Let them have their space.
Prevent violence:
Always be nice,
Listen to your parents,
Don't pay Shadina's price.

STARLYN ROBINSON

MICHAEL WILLIAMS, BATES ACADEMY, GRADE 8
"PAYING WITH YOUR LIFE"

"Chorus"
Stop the violence young people or you will
pay the price
The only outcome is paying with your life
"Verse #1"
At my young age I have witnessed many
deaths

And trust me its not the best
It's like being striped naked or undressed
Feeling confused as why a child would wear
a bulletproof vest
And he hasn't even made it out of his parent's nest
Lakes full of tears from blood shed
Asking my mother why my uncle is dead
And why I always have this feeling of dread
Lying to my mother that I'm okay
While wondering if this hurt and pain will
ever go away
So I'm begging you young people of today
Stop the violence so we can live to see a better day

"Chorus"
Stop the violence young people or you will
pay the price
The only outcome is paying with your life
"Verse #2"
Kids calling themselves gangsters and thugs
Hanging on street corners selling drugs
Perpetrating, wanna be grown
But only trying to hide the fact they ain't
getting no loving at home
No father figure
So to hide the pant, they hold a gun with the
safety off the trigger
To some life is a game and they have no
shame
Emotions running wild because they feel no
pain
At the age of thirteen you are still a kid
But the judge still tries you as an adult for
what you did

"Chorus"
Stop the violence young people or you will
pay the price
The only outcome is paying with your life
"Verse #3"
Maybe we should send the kids to a jail cell
for only a day
Then they would have to listen to what a
real prisoner has to say
Or maybe take them to an undertaker
So they can see what violence leads to today
Hopefully they will realize lying in a coffin
ain't the way
Put some positive mentors in there face
And maybe they won't think that there lives
are such a disgrace
With this in place they will gain a little
more hope and faith
And realize they have some good to contribute
to the human race
Now all that's okay but I alone can't stop violence today
So youth of today join me and keep the faith
and pray

"Chorus"
Stop the violence young people or you will
pay the price
The only outcome is paying with your life

MICHAEL WILLIAMS
MRS. GIBSON 8-4

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. J. DEOTHA MALONE

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to an educator who has not only been an exemplary teacher, administrator, and community servant, but also has the distinguished honor of being the longest serving educator in the region we call Middle Tennessee. Dr. J. Deotha Malone will retire from the Sumner County Board of Education today. She has been dedicated to educating the students in Middle Tennessee for more than 55 years.